

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) released the following statement today on a resolution he sponsored to permit the 64th race of the "Greater Washington Soap Box Derby" to take place on the grounds of the United States Capitol. The resolution, H. Con. Res. 86, passed the U.S. House of Representatives today. The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 18. Hoyer released the following statement:

"For the 15th straight year I am proud to sponsor the resolution allowing the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to hold its annual race on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

"H. Con. Res. 86, authorizes the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board to work with the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to ensure that all the necessary arrangements are made to conduct this race in complete compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds.

"Since 1991 the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association has held its race on the Capitol grounds. Each year it attracts over 50 racers, both boys and girls ranging in age from eight to seventeen. These young people work very hard to build their own gravity powered race cars from a kit provided by the All-American Soap Box Derby Program. Participating in the Soap Box Derby provides contestants with an opportunity to learn basic building skills and a sense of accomplishment.

"Soap Box Derby races are divided into 3 divisions: stock, super stock, and masters. The local winner of each division automatically qualifies to compete with racers from around the world in the All-American Soap Box Derby. This year's race will be held on July 30th in Akron, Ohio, where every year since 1936, except during World War II, young people have gathered to race.

"The festivities in Akron begin when the racers receive a police escort into town and conclude in the winner's circle with the awarding of scholarships and merchandise. In between, the racers and their families participate in a whirlwind of activities that leave them with enduring friendships and memories to last a lifetime.

"I am honored that all three of last year's winners of the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby

were from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District; Haley Luense of Accokeek, Robbie Reuss of Waldorf, and Robert McDaniel of Bowie. Although these three drivers and all the representatives from the Greater Washington Derby in the past have always performed well at the races in Akron, the DC Metro Region has not yet had a world champion. I am hopeful that this will finally be our year to have one of our own crowned world champion.

"This event has been called 'the greatest amateur racing event in the world.' It is a wonderful opportunity for our children from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia to venture into the world of science, while experiencing the spirit of competition."

For more information, visit the [All-American's web site](#) .

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